Freedom of Information Act 2000 & Environmental Information Regs. 2004

Medway Council
Serving You

Reference Number: INF003386

Request:

1. Detailed Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Statistics

• Please provide detailed crime statistics specific to Gillingham Town Centre for the last 5 years, broken down by crime type (e.g., theft, shoplifting, violent crime, drug-related offenses, public disorder, anti-social behaviour). This should include the number of incidents reported, trends in crime rates (e.g., seasonal changes or spikes), and any major incidents of note.
• For each type of crime, please provide data on the number of arrests, prosecutions, and convictions, if available, within Gillingham Town Centre.
• Can you specify the areas within Gillingham Town Centre with the highest rates of crime and anti-social behaviour? Please include street names or specific zones within the town centre where crime is most concentrated.

2. Evaluation of Crime Reduction Initiatives

• What specific crime reduction initiatives has Medway Council implemented in Gillingham Town Centre over the past 3-5 years? Please provide detailed descriptions of these initiatives, including their objectives, target areas, and how success has been measured.
• Can you provide any independent evaluations, audits, or impact assessments of these crime reduction initiatives? If so, please share the findings, including the degree to which these initiatives have resulted in reductions in crime or improvements in public safety.
• What is the measurable success rate of anti-social behaviour reduction programs? How does the council track the effectiveness of interventions such as youth outreach programs, diversionary activities, or behaviour change campaigns?

3. Resource Allocation and Investment in Crime Reduction

• How much funding has Medway Council allocated specifically to combat crime and anti-social behaviour in Gillingham Town Centre for the past 3 years? Please provide a breakdown of this funding, detailing how much was allocated to policing, community safety programs, youth initiatives, environmental improvements (e.g., lighting, CCTV), and other relevant areas.
• Has the funding allocation changed over time, especially in response to crime trends or community feedback? Please provide details on whether there has been an increase or reduction in resource allocation, particularly in areas with rising crime rates.
• How does the council prioritize its spending on crime reduction efforts? What criteria are used to determine which areas or issues receive the most funding?

4. Effectiveness of Policing and Surveillance Measures

If you wish to receive further information in regards to this request or wish to submit a Freedom of Information Request please forward your Freedom of Information Requests via our website, please CLICK HERE to take you to the online form or Information Governance Team, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.

• What is the current level of police presence in Gillingham Town Centre? Please provide details on the number of officers assigned to the area, their specific roles (e.g., community policing, crime prevention, patrols), and the frequency of their patrols.
• Has the council received any formal reports or feedback from local police forces regarding challenges they face in policing Gillingham Town Centre, such as resource constraints, lack of public cooperation, or high levels of crime in specific areas?
• How many CCTV cameras are currently operating in the town centre, and what are the areas of highest surveillance coverage? Please provide any statistics on how effective these cameras have been in preventing or solving crimes in the town centre.
• Are there any future plans to increase the number of CCTV cameras, introduce smart surveillance technologies (e.g., facial recognition), or implement additional public safety measures in the town centre? If so, please provide detailed information.

5. Collaboration with Local Agencies and Stakeholders

• How does Medway Council collaborate with local law enforcement agencies (e.g., Kent Police) to address crime in Gillingham Town Centre? Please provide details of any formal agreements, memoranda of understanding (MOUs), or partnership schemes that are currently in place.
• Are there any collaborative efforts between the council, local businesses, community groups, or charities to tackle anti-social behaviour in Gillingham Town Centre? If so, please provide specifics on the nature of these collaborations and any outcomes or achievements.
• How does the council ensure that information regarding crime and anti-social behaviour is shared effectively with local businesses and residents? Are there any public engagement platforms, meetings, or newsletters where crime data is communicated to stakeholders?

6. Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on Local Communities

• Please provide the results of any community surveys or consultations regarding crime and anti-social behaviour in Gillingham Town Centre. What are the key concerns raised by residents, businesses, and visitors? How does the council address these concerns in its crime reduction strategies?
• Has the council conducted any studies or assessments on the economic impact of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre, including costs to local businesses, property values, and community well-being? If so, please provide the findings.
• Are there any specific challenges faced by the council in addressing anti-social behaviour, such as a lack of social services, difficulty in identifying offenders, or challenges with enforcement? What steps are being taken to address these challenges?

7. Future Plans for Crime Reduction and Public Safety

• What long-term strategies does Medway Council have in place to address crime and anti-social behaviour in Gillingham Town Centre over the next 3-5 years? Can you provide a detailed action plan, including specific measures, timelines, and funding sources?
• Is there any ongoing or planned review of existing crime reduction strategies, and how will public input be incorporated into these reviews?

• What is the council's vision for Gillingham Town Centre's safety in the future, and what steps are being taken to foster a safer, more welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and visitors?

8. Transparency and Accountability

• How does the council ensure transparency in its efforts to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre? Are there any publicly available reports or audits regarding the effectiveness of crime reduction programs?
• How does the council track and hold accountable the success of its crime reduction initiatives? Are there any performance metrics or key performance indicators (KPIs) used to measure the success of crime prevention strategies?

9. Evaluation of Local Crime Prevention Programs

• Please provide detailed evaluations, reports, or assessments of any local crime prevention programs, such as diversionary activities for youth, community safety partnerships, or outreach programs aimed at preventing re-offending.
• How does the council ensure these programs are aligned with the specific needs of Gillingham Town Centre's demographic, including at-risk youth, marginalized groups, and residents facing socio-economic challenges?

Additional Questions Regarding High Street Funding and Anti-Social Behaviour
10. Impact of Lack of Funding and High Street Improvements

• Does Medway Council agree that the lack of adequate funding for Gillingham Town Centre, particularly in terms of high street improvements, has contributed to the worsening of area standards, including increased anti-social behaviour, decay of public spaces, and diminished safety in the area?
• How does the council assess the correlation between insufficient investment in the high street and the current state of crime, anti-social behaviour, and general public safety in Gillingham Town Centre?

11. Funding Allocation and High Street Improvement Programs

• Can you provide a breakdown of the funding allocated to Gillingham Town Centre for high street improvements, crime prevention, and public safety measures in the past 3-5 years? Specifically, how much of this funding has been allocated to improving infrastructure, public spaces, and addressing anti-social behaviour?
• What specific high street improvement initiatives have been implemented by Medway Council in Gillingham Town Centre? Were any of these initiatives designed to reduce anti-social behaviour or improve the general environment? If so, what were the outcomes of these efforts?

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Response:

Unfortunately, the information you request is not something that is readily available in a single document, or within the format you are requesting it in. However, below are the links to our Community Safety Plan and our Strategic Risk Assessment.

https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=82964

https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=82986

Please note that detailed crime statistics and other information that you are requesting will be held by partner agencies, such as the Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service etc.

I trust this information is to your satisfaction, however, if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Information Governance Manager, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR., or email freedom@medway.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

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